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OUR FOREFATHERS

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MYTH, legend, tradition, even quasi-modern invention — historians used to employ one of these terms when they spoke about the Hung kings, thought to be the founders and organizers of ancient Vietnamese nationality. They had, no doubt, but let us concede it, they had an excuse: already our old historiographers had doubted the existence of such monarchs, lost in the fog of very remote times.

True, it sometimes happens that peoples, and not only states, lose even the memory of their Creators. In our country, the small group of temples on Mount Alpha Cuong dedicated to the Hung kings is rather modest; besides, it is quite recent in its present aspect. And yet, times times immemorial, on the 10th day of the 3rd moon of each year (usually late April), crowds of pilgrims come to pay tribute to the ancestors of the nation.

Did those ancestors ever exist? One of the main achievements of young Vietnamese

archaeology has been to demonstrate in a definite way that, on that score, it was not the people but the scholars who were mistaken. The discovery in the last decade of a series of prehistoric hoards — nearly a hundred so far — at the very heart of the "kingdom" of Van Lang according to tradition has lifted the veil of mystery and settled the difference opposing popular faith to the weapons of scholarly criticism.

Again a victory of the regime? Just so. Chance, which has a role to play in scientific research, has been for nothing in this affair. When the eminent French orientalist Henri Maspero rejected the Hung kings into the sphere of fables, or fiction, he knew quite well — and said so — that many hoards of polished stone had been discovered here and there in provinces of the Red River delta. From this he had drawn the conclusion that Vietnamese in those remote times "knew how to till the land". This was not inaccurate, but the

idea did not occur to him, or to any other Western orientalist after him, that it could have been turned to better account. Was it due to any lack of science or imagination on his part? I don't think so. But he didn't believe the culture of a colonial people to be a priori capable, especially in such remote times, of rising very high.

Neither was the spirit of invention or knowledge lacking among the European archaeologists who unraveled a Poncic origin to the Thanh Hoa bronze artifacts and the great Dong Son civilization — especially the Szeede Olon fairs, who set the fashion for the U.S.-puppet cultural services in the occupied zone of South Vietnam. But they were inspired by the same racism.

As for us, pick and choose in hand, we have gone in quest of our forefathers. We were not used to let ourselves be impressed by big names or by pure reasoning, and we shared our people's attachment to ancestral traditions and their

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NIXON's

FIRST HUNDRED DAYS

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN WARTIME NORTH VIET NAM

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Military Operations

South Viet Nam

— PLAF blast a huge ammo depot at Da Nang airfield and put 300 GI's of Tropic Lightning Division out of action at Ben Trai northwest of Saigon.

— Heavy enemy losses South of DMZ: 950 casualties, 67 military vehicles destroyed in 9 days.

North Viet Nam

Between April 27 and May 3, 4 unmanned spy planes were downed (three over Hanoi and one over Hai-phong), bringing the total number of aircraft lost by the U.S. in North Viet Nam to **3,284**

PLAF fighters marching
up hill and down dale



NIXON'S FIRST HUNDRED DAYS

(Adapted from a commentary by QUAN DOI NHAN DAN - People's Army paper - on April 28, 1969)

IMMEDIATELY after his entry in the White House, Nixon had a group with a series of hard problems both internal and external. It is fair to say that unlike his predecessors, Nixon had little time to say his race for power for relaxation and reflection over U.S. policy in the coming four years of his administration. The anti-U.S. wave of West European nations, the anger voiced by thousands and thousands of Americans, the too early rebellion of Congress against Nixon's Viet Nam policy and his anti-missile system, the humiliating incident of the B-57 crash in North Korea, and more particularly the post-Tet offensive of the South Viet Nam armed forces and people, all these have cast a dark shadow over Nixon's first hundred days. The dark trips to and from Washington accomplished by Laird, Wheeler, Bunker, the first and interminable meetings of the National Security Council and the spokesmen and himself filled either with digressions or embarrassment supplied unmistakable indications of the disorderly mood prevailing in Washington since Nixon took office. The State Department should also be made of the increasingly critical inflation, the recent action taken by the Peruvian government against the American oil companies, the decision to set up trade and diplomatic relations with a number of socialist countries, the threat of neighbouring countries of her military commitment in the NATO and her planned recognition of the People's Republic of China. Such facts only added to the weakening of U.S. position in a major power in the "free world" and threatened even the quiet of its back yard.

Confronted with such a puzzling situation, Nixon could not keep silent for long as he had previously planned, and had to give some intimations of his policy which were only indicative of an unworkable trend. Indeed this policy is apparently going counter to the interests of the Americans at home, it involves tax hikes, increase in the defence budget and the strengthening of an oppressive machinery; in foreign affairs, it means the continuation of U.S. role as an international gendarme and efforts to mend relations with military alliances; as far as Viet Nam is concerned, it aims at pursuing the losing war of aggression by means of an alleged "Vietnamization" of the conflict and at securing a "position of strength" in the quagmire of defeat.

NOTHING new can be found in Nixon's policy relations with Johnson's. This is particularly true with Viet Nam.

What may be new is only the fact that the situation has considerably worsened

now compared with the Johnson time:

Firstly, the anti Viet Nam legacy inherited from Johnson has been burdened with new setbacks suffered by Abram's army at the hands of a mutually resolute people whose offensive seemingly have no time limit, as some Western agency put it. The "clear-and-hold" strategy, which was resorted to by the U.S. in its last-ditch efforts, is facing complete failure.

Secondly, Johnson has used up all tricks of U.S. imperialism, including "special warfare" and "limited warfare" in South Viet Nam and the strategy of air war escalation against the North. He has also tested all sorts of tactics and weapons which have all proved utterly inefficient against the Vietnamese people's unflinching resistance.

Thirdly, a mood of defeatism is now spreading among U.S. ruling circles following Johnson's strategic back-down moves which were the limitation of bombing, then the unconditional aggression of all air, naval and artillery bombardment against North Viet Nam, and finally the conference in Paris with NLF participation.

Fourthly, the American people were fed up with Johnson's promises which did not forge any Nixon's breach of his decision to end the war by campaigning for U.S. president. Neither the American people nor the U.S. media are inclined to lead the U.S. to new disasters.

True, Nixon is a prisoner of the above described situation. The recognition of the U.S. rulers is but that of a battered adversary in a weakened position, at a loss for a suitable way to escape total defeat.

Nixon's First 100 Days Criminal War Escalation in South Viet Nam

The Commission For Investigation of the U.S. Imperialists' War Crimes in Viet Nam has made public a statement some excerpts of which are given below:

On April 30, 1969, the U.S. National Security Council completed its 100 days in office. The tolerant period the American people reserved for a newly elected president has become 100 days of criminal escalation in Viet Nam.

"In South Viet Nam, in the past 100 days, the Nixon administration allocated an additional \$2 billion for the escalation of the war, towards the equipping of the Saigon puppet government with 300 up-to-date military aircraft for the air-lifting of puppet troops to massacre the Vietnamese people. Furthermore, it allocated a special credit of 258 million dollars for the modernization of the puppet troops' 'extra' flights of B-57s. On April 7, 1969, in the U.S. News

and World Report press room, U.S. Defense Secretary Melvin Laird declared, 'It involves immediately an additional \$2 billion for the war as far as equipment is concerned for the South Vietnamese forces. The Nixon administration introduced into South Viet Nam another 3,000 U.S. expeditionary troops, and \$2 billion for mercenaries to launch big terrorist raids with U.S. battalions operating in cooperation with 300 up-to-date military aircraft for the air-lifting of puppet troops to massacre the Vietnamese people. Furthermore, it allocated a special credit of 258 million dollars for the modernization of the puppet troops' 'extra' flights of B-57s. On April 7, 1969, in the U.S. News

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PARIS CONFERENCE ON VIET NAM HOLDS 15th PLENARY SESSION

WHAT was done by Nixon about Viet Nam in his first hundred days as President of the United States? This was dealt by Mr. Tran Bui Kim, Mr. Xuan Tuy, respectively heads of the NLF and DRVN delegations, at the 15th plenary session of the Paris Conference (April 30, 1969). They proved with irrefutable facts that Nixon had been pursuing the war of aggression against Viet Nam, pushing it to an unprecedented level of atrocity, and had caused the Paris Conference to stagnate, while public opinion was deceived by statements on so-called progress in the conference and "private talks" outside official meetings.

The Front's delegate exposed Nixon's "partial withdrawal" as a trick. What the U.S. president had in mind, he said, was to divide off the South Viet Nam, either of an auxiliary nature or already heavily depleted, give puppet troops the weapons of these units and provide the puppet army with U.S. military personnel labeled as "advisers." This was a concrete method within the framework of the "Vietnamization" which was advocated by Nixon to play off Vietnamese against Vietnamese and achieve U.S. neo-colonial policy in South Viet Nam. "It takes more than the withdrawal of tens of thousands or tens of thousands of American soldiers," said the NLF envoy, "to show the good will of the United States. It must rather agree to withdraw all U.S. and satellite troops, including those of whatever, in insisting on the mutual withdrawal of troops, the U.S. is only seeking a pretext to prolong the presence of its troops in South Viet Nam."

On the occasion of the International Labour Day, Mr. Xuan Tuy conveyed his greetings to the U.S. and world workers who were stepping up their actions against the U.S. war of aggression. He said that the end to it by the Nixon administration.

Mr. Tran Bui Kim highlighted the tumultuous drive of urban masses in South Viet Nam for the replacement of the Thieu-Kieu puppet triumvirate by a peace cabinet ready to hold serious talks with the DRVN, respectively heads of the NLF and DRVN delegations, at the 15th plenary session of the Paris Conference (April 30, 1969). They proved with irrefutable facts that Nixon had been pursuing the war of aggression against Viet Nam, pushing it to an unprecedented level of atrocity, and had caused the Paris Conference to stagnate, while public opinion was deceived by statements on so-called progress in the conference and "private talks" outside official meetings.

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THE NORTH - GREAT REAR BASE OF THE SOUTH

PROCEEDING from the basic concept that North Viet Nam is the great rear base of the South, the great frontline of the whole country, when the U.S. imperialists escalated the war into the North, the Viet Nam Workers' Party laid down the relevant political task for the North Vietnamese people, namely to simultaneously produce and fight, actively defend Viet Nam, provide all-out support for the Southern people and resolutely resist U.S. aggression until victory while stepping up the building of socialism in a way suitable to the new situation.

Building and developing North Viet Nam's economy boils down to carrying on the laying of the material and technical foundations of socialism, continuing socialist industrialisation, steadily consolidating socialist production relations in a way called for by war-time conditions, stabilising the people's living standard and concurrently ensuring increased production, fighting and achieving combat preparedness while closely coordinating the satisfaction of the needs and the fight with preparations for future step-up of socialist construction.

Reality has proved that this line is sound and has produced fruitful results. In the past 4 years, we have earmarked an important part of the capital invested in the building of the material and technical foundations of various branches of the economy for the shaping of local economy. This stems from the realisation that in a people's war and in socialist industrialisation of an agriculturally backward country progressing straight to socialism without passing through the stage of capitalism, each area (province and city) must be turned into a production, fighting, operational and logistical strategic unit.

The growing of

AGRICULTURE

THE task of agriculture is to concentrate efforts on solving the food problem, meeting the needs of the army and the people and at the same time seeing to its all-sided development, as well as more and more raw materials for industry and farm products for export.

Since Viet Nam's economy is largely agricultural with a rather wide field of action, it is impossible for the enemy to destroy its whole structure. Major hydraulic works and factories producing chemical fertilizers were fiercely attacked by the enemy. Nevertheless we organised the masses to develop green and hydraulic network in every part of the country, pushed up the traditional practice of preparing green and hydraulic network on the spot, and the application of new farming methods such as rational crop rotation, seed selection, careful tending and combat against insect pests so as to promote intensive cultivation for high crop yields. As a result, food output in the past years has been on the increase. Progress in high farming has been the striking feature of agricultural development in our country during the past 4 years of war. The area having achieved 3 tons per hectare per year (1.3 ton/ha under French domination) has increased from 10,000 to 20,000 hectares.

Attention has been paid to the all-sided agricultural production, apart from rice culture. The growing of

vegetables, subsidiary and industrial crops and animal breeding have increased annually; 1968 saw a 4.2 per cent rise in pig breeding over 1967 and was the peak year ever.

Relations of production in agricultural co-ops have been constantly strengthened. In 1968, 94.3 per cent of the peasant households joined the co-ops, with more than 92 per cent of them in high-level ones. The size and the material and technical bases of the co-ops have been constantly enlarged. Agricultural co-operation has transformed our country's small, scattered and backward production into a rather large, planned and gradually modernized production.

In short, our agriculture keeps developing steadily in war, and has succeeded in meeting the war needs, maintaining the people's living standard and providing a sound initial basis for the development of industry.

INDUSTRY

FOR the development of the industrial sector, we have advocated active defence of existing establishments, their re-organisation and reconstruction in wartime, and the gearing up of their production capacity, and regarded them as the main source of supplies for production and the fighting on the other hand. We have decided to concentrate efforts on stepping up the building of local industry with a host of small and scattered establishments so as to enable each province, in any circumstances, to satisfy to the maximum local needs with its own resources, first of all needs in means of production for agriculture, and communications and transport, and in consumer goods; at the same time adequate attention has been paid to the continued building of centrally-run industry with suitable measures and on an appropriate scale and where conditions permit a number of enterprises will receive additional equipment to expand their production.

Centrally-run industrial installations came under constant attack. But thanks to the strict implementation of the policy of evacuating, dispersing and protecting the factories and building shadow projects, many branches of industry, electricity, coal, engineering, cotton fabrics, paper and sugar have been able to maintain production at a substantial level, successfully seeing to the most urgent needs of the fighting and production and a part of the needs of the population.

Besides centrally-run industry, the past years have seen the development of significant turning points in the building and development of local industry. Step by

step, we have been setting up a comprehensive network of industrial enterprises in each province capable of reinforcing on the spot logistics, linking industry with agriculture and bringing the new distribution of labour force in each area. In the past 4 years, the capital invested in the building of local industry has increased by a time compared with the 4 years before 1960. More than 1,000 state-run local industrial establishments and 2,000 local co-operatives have been put into commission. In 1968, gross output value of state-run local industry grew by 30 per cent compared with 1964.

Remarkable has been the progress in engineering industry.

The engineering network keeps extending at all levels. In 1967 gross output value of the local engineering industry rose by 55.9 per cent compared with 1964. In 1968, it went up by 4.5 per cent over the previous year. This branch of industry has concentrated on producing small machines, power generators, water pumps, improved hand carts, farm implements, machine-units and various tools, and for a number of small-scale local industrial installations. The equipment of agricultural concepts through mechanical devices has brought about a change for the better in the distribution of labour and helped them rapidly raise labour productivity and crop yields, with the result that part of man-power used in agriculture has been shifted to industry, communications and transport, and fighting jobs.

The socialist market plays the leading role on the general market. As a whole prices are stabilised.

Thanks to all these efforts, the people's standard of living remains relatively stable, and in some localities it has even improved in some respects.

COMMUNICATIONS AND TRANSPORT

OVER the past years, communications and transport have been regarded as an extremely important emergency task of the entire Party and people. In spite of intensive enemy attacks, our communications and transport network has expanded rapidly and experienced an unprecedented growth.

With their wisdom, creativity and courage, our people and armed forces have overcome the shortcomings inherent in a country with many rivers and canals and poorly developed communication network with every means, modern and rudimentary, they have at their disposal. As a result, our communication arteries have never been disrupted and goods have been flowing to the frontline and to every corner of the country.

Thanks to the development of production and the people's life, the road service alone, the transport tonnage/mileage was 100 per cent fulfilled in 1968. The rate was 104 per cent in 1967, 102 per cent in 1966, and 125.2 per cent in 1965.

The people have largely contributed to the achievements of the communication and transport service. Maintenance teams set up by the people are available. Wherever there is a road, ready at all times to keep it open, they fill up bomb craters, repair bridges and roads, load unladen transport goods, and even fight off enemy raids on communication lines.

PEOPLE'S LIVING STANDARD

In gross circulation and distribution, we have decided to follow the line of the highest degree of man-power and financial material power, and to defeat the U.S. aggressor while paying due attention to the people's living conditions, meeting their essential needs in food, clothing, health and education, and improving their well-being for the sake of increased production and long-term fighting.

Prompted by their ardent patriotism and their deep hatred for the U.S. imperialists, every year our people sell rice, meat and other products for the State to meet the planned quotas. Goods are distributed to them on a fair, rational and democratic basis. The network of retail sale by state trade companies and marketing and supplying cooperatives has doubled compared with the pre-war period.

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Finance and currency are in the main sound. On the basis of the turn-over of increased production, the people's living standard has the assistance of the brotherly countries, there is always a rapid increase in the revenue of the state budget.

THANKS to its sound line and policies and with creative measures, North Viet Nam's economy has been hurt by the U.S. war of destruction as the enemy expected and has instead been developing. The superiority of socialist economy and of the sound political and social regime have been disclosed in bold relief in the war. This constitutes an important factor which has contributed to our victory over the U.S. war of destruction and will give a push to advance towards socialism.

News in Brief

● A grand meeting held in Hanoi to celebrate May Day was attended by President Ho Chi Minh and other State and Party leaders and representatives of workers, army-men, cooperative farmers, intellectuals and various segments of Hanoi people, as well as labour heroes and emulation combatants.

● On April 27, 1969, people in various provinces and cities throughout North Viet Nam went to the polls to elect people's councils at district, provincial and corresponding levels.

● In Hanoi, President Ho Chi Minh and other Party and State leaders joined the city's voters.

● Recently the Viet Nam Workers' Party 4th Military Zone Committee held a commemorative ceremony with the following key notes:

"Let's emulate one another in achieving exploits and fighting and defeating U.S. aggression".

Since Aug. 5, 1964, the armed forces and people of this zone have shot down 1,496 U.S. aircraft, or nearly half the total U.S. planes crashed in North Viet Nam, of different types including B-52 strategic bombers and F-4s swing-wing planes.

● On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the founding of the Vietnamese nation (10th day, 3rd Lunar month), the people of various parts of the country, the local people's committees and various public offices and branches of service of the central administrative and Vinh Phuc province attended a commemorative ceremony on Mount Nam Cuong.

Complete Failure of U.S. Neo-Colonialism in South Viet Nam

By Prof. L. V. H. (South Viet Nam)

(continued from last issue)

III CULTIVATION AND UTILIZATION OF REACTIONARY AND DEPRIVED PSYWAR LITERATURE AND ARTS

Paywar literature and arts in the pay of the U.S.

A gang of hack writers and artists have been fostered in the psychological warfare, information, propaganda and "open arms apparatus" of the U.S. puppets. Their task is to glorify the August Revolution, the past war of resistance against French colonialism and the present great nation-wide war of resistance against U.S. aggression, for national salvation. Day and night they broadcast fallacious and reactionary propaganda and doctored news bulletins over a radio and television hookup Radio Saigon, Radio Quoc Tho (Army), Tu Do (Freedom), Radio Giong Thieu (The Patriotic Sacred Sound) and the Voice of America. They set prizes for and publish levity anti-communist literature by cartoonists, caricaturists as Ky Van Nguyen, Vu Phien, Chu Tu, Doan Chieu, Sy, Nguyen Manh (in).

Along with anti-communist literature combined with bloody "Denounce and Make Away with Communists" campaigns, the puppet administration also makes intensive use of another facet of psywar literature, i.e. anti-national and traitorous literature. This literature lures the U.S. losses to the skies, prays what it calls the "disinterestedness, generosity and noble humanism" of the United States which has "brought weapons and money to help the Vietnamese defend their freedom and sovereignty." In this category one can find many poems and articles singing "Viet Nam - America friendship" and "Viet Nam - America unity," weeping over the death of American aggressors on the battlefield extolling the American "advisors" or experts in the "charity" and medical teams in the "peace" detachments. They shamelessly call the U.S. the "benefactor" of the Vietnamese people and spare no words to deny the might and wealth of the United States, etc.

Since mid-July when U.S. imperialism fully revealed its wicked nature as an aggressor and imperialist, their ugly features as traitors, psywar literature has run short of decent signboards to lavish its praises on, and has thus been forced to concentrate on justifying the U.S. aggression and the puppets' treason.

Thus, the hack writers of all denominations exert themselves to prove that American troops have come to South Viet Nam to "save the South Vietnamese people from Communist aggression and domination," that "American bombs and shells only kill the Vietcong and only devastate Vietcong areas." More perfidious still, the traitorous writers try to incite dissension between the North and the South, distort the national liberation revolution and the common efforts of the Vietnamese people to resist U.S. aggression and wipe out the traitors.

On the other hand, psywar literature also endeavors to ally the traitors' fears to the U.S. aggression, for national salvation. Day and night they broadcast fallacious and reactionary propaganda and doctored news bulletins over a radio and television hookup Radio Saigon, Radio Quoc Tho (Army), Tu Do (Freedom), Radio Giong Thieu (The Patriotic Sacred Sound) and the Voice of America. They set prizes for and publish levity anti-communist literature by cartoonists, caricaturists as Ky Van Nguyen, Vu Phien, Chu Tu, Doan Chieu, Sy, Nguyen Manh (in).

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Another aspect of the scheme to use arts and literature in psychological warfare is the so-called "literature of compassion" which is characterized by romantic and unwholesome songs and poems purported to inspire the masses with the dread of war, the loathing of hardships of fighting and create the psychology of passive pacifism and peace at all costs. On the other hand, it also spreads perfidious and vague allegations to conceal the aggression and traitorous activities of the U.S. and puppets, confuse right and wrong and equate the aggressors with the victims of aggression. The hack writers headed by Pham Duy weep over war, cancer, war, encourage anti-war literature and calls for peace in general (which is in fact peace in slavery advocated by the Yankee aggressors). This is the substance of the "heart songs" of Pham Duy which the puppet bosses took to the southern bank of the Ben Hai river and called on the American and Viet Nam and beamed onto the northern bank over huge loudspeakers. This is also the content of the puppet newspapers published by Ho Huan Tuong who tries to demonstrate that the "era of peace" has set in to replace the "era of struggle," that "the tendency to resist is a bestial instinct." The "compassion" which he wants to substitute for fighting leads to a typical expression in the fact that he styled himself the "distasteful grandfather" of the tens of thousands of Vietnamese children left by the U.S. expeditionary troops in South Viet Nam and called on the American "separate grandfathers" to contribute each a dollar to the fund for raising these unfortunate children. (in *Long Letters to Staircase*, 1966).

There is no doubt that the "literature of compassion" has been put out to co-ordinate with, and lend a hand to, the peace hoax of Johnson. It is directly paid by the U.S.

The decadent and unhealthy literature and arts are monstrous offspring of the U.S. psywar.

BESIDE the reactionary and anti-national literature and art directly connected with American imperialism and disseminated by U.S.-puppet psywar organs, there is the decadent literature and arts which are encouraged by them to propagate widely through the press, poems, fictions, dance music and the theatre no less dangerous poisons for the mind. Decadent literature and arts, in effect, is the main link for the mercenaries dubbed "fighters and officers of the Republic."

First, it is the mirages of endless love affairs. Poetry in this category is full of "boredom, idleness, debauchery, sentimental misfortunes, the mire of soul, the pangs of despair, some warmth of the lover's breath and many dreams of an inefficient life." To quote a poetry critic: "As for music, it totally lacks the energy, vigour and stamina of struggle but entirely consists of plaintive, maudlin tunes of feeble, morbid and frustrated souls. These are the obnoxious love songs which were once en vogue in the enemy-controlled areas during the resistance to the French colonialists and "modern" romantic songs which are no less insipid and tearful, singing the petty romances to cater for the cabaret and dancing bars. They are signed by Van Pham Duy, Minh Cuong, and Nguyen Van Dong and have been broadcast practically round the clock over the radio network of the puppet administration. The drama and "modern drama" theatre is all caste. On the other hand, it also spreads perfidious and vague allegations to conceal the aggression and traitorous activities of the U.S. and puppets, confuse right and wrong and equate the aggressors with the victims of aggression. The hack writers headed by Pham Duy weep over war, cancer, war, encourage anti-war literature and calls for peace in general (which is in fact peace in slavery advocated by the Yankee aggressors). This is the substance of the "heart songs" of Pham Duy which the puppet bosses took to the southern bank of the Ben Hai river and called on the American and Viet Nam and beamed onto the northern bank over huge loudspeakers. This is also the content of the puppet newspapers published by Ho Huan Tuong who tries to demonstrate that the "era of peace" has set in to replace the "era of struggle," that "the tendency to resist is a bestial instinct." The "compassion" which he wants to substitute for fighting leads to a typical expression in the fact that he styled himself the "distasteful grandfather" of the tens of thousands of Vietnamese children left by the U.S. expeditionary troops in South Viet Nam and called on the American "separate grandfathers" to contribute each a dollar to the fund for raising these unfortunate children. (in *Long Letters to Staircase*, 1966).

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OUR FOREFATHERS

(Continued from page 1)

falsity. We wanted to get to the bottom of the matter. We don't regret it.

Our persistent search, carried out on even under the harshest conditions, more brilliant light upon the Dong Son drums known all over the world for a third of a century now. Better still, it has revealed that the admirable civilisation of which the bronze drum of the Heger I type was a kind of symbol was not the product of a whole cultural and historical process practically covering the entire Vietnamese Bronze Age. As early as the end of the Neolithic, a stable human community had lived and developed in the neighbourhood of the confluences of the Black River, the Clear River and the River Day with the Red River, remarkable by the decorative wealth of its pottery and the fineness of its work of polished stone. Then bronze had appeared: the moulds which have been discovered, made of a clay paste or carved in stone, are evidence of the gradual progress and the high technique finally attained in the art of casting and working bronze.

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style of decorative motifs and fables which evoked the ceramics of the last centuries of polished stone. At the same time it is seen that the area of extension of this culture, at this apex of its evolution, included the whole Vietnamese part of the Red River valley, the whole Tonkin delta and the entire basin of the River Ma, and not merely the vicinity of Phao Tho, Viet Tri and Hanoi.

No, we are not going to proclaim hurriedly that the Hung kings were at the rendezvous... They haven't told us yet whether they had really numbered 18, or whether, for their reign to have lasted more than 2,000 years, these kings had to be immortal dynasties. We don't know yet, we admit, whether they would be pleased to be called as we call them — the Hung kings — for we are still in the dark as to their true names and titles.

However, that the society corresponding to the period when they had lived was a highly civilized one is beyond question. The systematic destruction of all material vestiges of our ancient national culture, ordered in the year 43 by a conqueror whose aim was a definite annihilation of our country, could destroy neither the reality of the Hung kings, nor the desire of our people for the beautiful, an exquisite taste for shapes and a passionate, joyful so to speak, search for ornamentation. The same style, varied yet recognizable at first sight, is found on the writhing lines and the famous drums, which came close to the Iron Age, and it was already the

our nation has earned for itself throughout the world have got the upper hand and finally have swept these notions of spiritualism away. In the respect, U.S.-neo-colonialism has sustained a bitter setback. The sight of waves of young men and women in Saigon, Da Nang, Hue and other cities rising up in Spring 1968 and again in this Spring has brought this failure into bolder relief and bespeaks an extraordinary spring of our national literature, arts and science in a reunited country.

SEE IN OUR NEXT: U.S.-PUPPET POLITICAL AGGRESSION AND TREASON. REACTION OF THE TOWNSPEOPLE IN SOUTH VIET NAM.

Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces Holds Congress

THE Viet Nam Alliance of National, Democratic and Peace Forces (South Viet Nam) held on April 30 a congress to mark its first founding anniversary. Gial Phung Press Agency reported. The assembly reviewed the situation in South Viet Nam and the VNADEF's activities and achievements in the past year, and discussed the Alliance's long-term tasks and role in the nation-wide struggle against U.S. aggression.

It highlighted the brilliant successes won by the South Vietnamese people since the founding of the Alliance and warned against the obduracy of the US which still tries to turn South Viet Nam into a new-type colony and prolong its aggressive war in South Viet Nam.

After assessing the deep changes in the political attitude of the upper classes including senior personnel and officers of the Saigon puppet administration and the South Viet Nam army, the Congress stressed that the townspeople of various strata had realized the aggressive and traitorous nature of the US and the Thieu-Ky-Huong clique, and felt a bitter hate for the enemy's aggressive, bellicose fascist policies. They also were aware that the only way for them now was to take the path of revolutionary struggle to win independence, democracy, peace, neutrality and prosperity, and ultimate peaceful reunification of the country.

A fascinating work, don't you think? First because it is our hope that, as has been the case up to now, our archaeological and other investigations will continue to reserve surprises for us. It is also fascinating for us because, contrarily, we expect from it answers to certain precise questions with which we have been preoccupied concerning the original features and the strength of our national traditions, our relationships with our neighbors in the remote times, the creative specificity of our social, economic and political regimes in relation to the general outline of the Asian mode of production, our contribution to the elucidation of that important Marxist theoretical concept.

Lastly, it is fascinating because, on the strength of our archaeological documents analyzed ever more in depth, we are coming to life—and what life!—the immense treasury of our stories and legends of times past: the child of Phu Dong who grew up miraculously in a cave, the native land of foreign invaders: the rebellious elephant which got its neck twisted, the god of the waters, J-aming, but eventually tamed... However!

despite ruthless persecution by the enemy, they continued to step up their struggle and form a very broad anti-US front for national salvation. Large sections of the upper classes including personalities, intellectuals, religious leaders, students, artists, writers, businessmen, and even senior officials and officers in the Saigon administration and army had gathered into a genuine patriotic force struggling vigorously for the overthrow Thieu-Ky-Huong clique, and for the formation of a peace-restoring cabinet to talk in good faith with the NLF in order to bring peace, independence and freedom to the country.

The thinking of people from all walks of life and members of political parties were in increasing agreement with the five points of the NLF and with the position of the Alliance.

The meeting defined the Alliance's tasks and directions of struggle as follows: "Any sensible political solution to the South Viet Nam issue must be based on the cessation of the U.S. aggressive war in South Viet Nam, recognition of the fundamental national rights of the South Vietnamese people, removal of all foreign interference, holding of general elections, formation of a broad national, democratic coalition government, achievement of independence, democracy, peace, neutrality and prosperity, and ultimate peaceful reunification of the country."

The Congress expressed sincere thanks to the South Viet Nam NLF, the Viet Nam Fatherland Front (DRVN), the people at home as well as overseas Vietnamese, and all organizations. It then warmly greeted on the occasion of the first anniversary of the Alliance. It voiced profound gratitude to the DRVN Government and people for their unstinting assistance to the South Vietnamese people in their fight against U.S. aggression. It also showed heartfelt gratitude to all progressives in the world and in the U.S. who were wholeheartedly supporting to the just struggle of the South Vietnamese people.

our efforts could be but a fruitless one. For forever is an us. We have the decomposition of doing useful work and, while serving society, of paying debt tribute to our forefathers, to the nation. The interest shown by our leaders to our work and the unwavering attention with which our compatriots including those in the South, are following it, are for us the best encouragement and the most earnest guarantee of success.

A Dong Son bronze drum

VET NAM AND THE WORLD

DRVN GOVERNMENT SCORES U.S. ESPIONAGE AND PROVOCATIVE ACTIVITIES AGAINST DPRK

(Full text of DRVN government statement on April 26, 1969)

ON April 15, 1969, a large-size reconnaissance plane of the U.S. imperialists flew a hostile espionage mission over the air space of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and was shot down by the DPRK air force.

In spite of their setback, the U.S. ruling circles have been keeping up their hostile activities against the DPRK. U.S. President Nixon has arrogantly declared that the U.S. would continue reconnaissance flights over the DPRK with armed escort by the "Special Strike Force 71".

As known to all, since the signing of the Korean Armistice Agreement, the U.S. imperialists have been occupying South Korea, stepping up their preparations for a war of aggression, and mounting repeated military provocations against the DPRK.

Scores of the U.S. imperialists' intelligence planes in the airspace of the DPRK, the setting up of the "Special

Strike Force 71" and continued reconnaissance flights over the DPRK constitute brazen violations of international law and of the 1953 Korean Armistice Agreement, gross encroachments upon the sovereignty and security of the DPRK, and a grave threat to peace in Asia and the world. This brazen and adventurist step of the U.S. imperialists is nothing short of an insolent challenge to the peoples in the socialist countries and the peace- and justice-loving people all over the world.

The Vietnamese people and the Government of the DRVN fully support the legitimate position of the Government of the DPRK expounded in its statement of April 23, 1969, which firmly insisted that the U.S. government stop at once all its military provocations against the DPRK and withdraw all foreign troops from South Korea.

Okinawa Day (April 28)

Okinawa Should Be Immediately Returned to the Japanese People

THE continued occupation of Okinawa by the U.S. is intolerable since it constitutes a crime against the island's one million inhabitants and the entire Japanese people as well as against the Vietnamese people and the other Asian peoples. In execution of their policy to make Japan a prime jumping-off place for war provocations and aggressions in Asia, and under the terms of the "Japan-U.S. Security Treaty", the U.S. imperialists have set up in Okinawa 117 military bases — nearly one half of the total of U.S. military bases in Japan. Okinawa has become the biggest nuclear missile base in the Far East and an operational and logistical base for the U.S. aggressive war in Viet Nam. With the Sato government's abatement, B52 planes have been flown

from Okinawa for raids in North and South Viet Nam. Over the past 24 years the Japanese people have been persistently struggling for the abolition of the "Japan-U.S. Security Treaty", dismantlement of American military bases in Japan and withdrawal of U.S. occupationist troops from Japan.

Under pressure from this popular movement of the Japanese people, the United States staged in 1968 a "talk with the Japanese government on the return of Okinawa to Japan" farce and had to hold elections to Okinawa administrative organs. Chiboya Yano, candidate with democratic forces' backing, was returned as executive chief of the Kyu Kyu administration. This was an initial success of the Okinawans in particular and of the Japanese people in general.

However the U.S. and the Japanese reactionary clique are always plotting to make Okinawa a permanent American military base and preparing to repress the Japanese people's struggle even more brutally. The Japanese reactionary authorities' scheme is to extend the validity of the "Japan-U.S. Security Treaty" and to amend the constitution so as to legalize the re-armament of Japan and restore militarism.

Not the Japanese people are marching resolutely forward to achieve an independent, democratic, peaceful and neutral Japan.

The Vietnamese people resolutely demand that the U.S. imperialists return Okinawa immediately and unconditionally to Japan. They strongly condemn the Sato government's collusion with the U.S. imperialists, its deservings the interests of the Japanese people and helping the U.S. aggressive war against Viet Nam. The valiant struggle of the Japanese people is a valuable support to the Vietnamese people's fight against U.S. aggression for national salvation.

The medical service in the liberated zone has met the requirements in promptly treating wounds caused by U.S. bombs and shells, making ever greater contributions to the struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

U.S. PLANES RAID NORTH VIETNAMESE SCHOOL

ON April 23, 1969, U.S. aircraft rocketed the primary school of Khanh Thanh village in Yen Thanh district, Nghe An province. It was during class-time, and one of the schoolchildren was killed, and 18 others wounded.

Between April 14 and 19, U.S. aircraft also attacked many places in Minh Hoa and Le Thuy districts, Quang Binh province, and the Cao

Nhung rivermouth, Ha Tinh province, perpetrating many crimes against the local people.

These new crimes of the U.S. aggressors against North Viet Nam also constituted impudent provocations against world and U.S. public opinion.

They have been strongly protested by the spokesman of the DRVN Foreign Ministry.

Military Operations

(Continued from page 8)

of Area (east of Pleiku) and **Don Mu Thout** were shelled, resulting in the destruction of 18 engines. Three days earlier, on April 3, a puppet company was wiped out at **Huon Thung** (10 km north of Buon Me Thout), losing 80 men including all the commanding officers.

SAIGON SECTOR

A major annihilation raid was mounted by the PLAF on the night of April 25 against the encampment of a battalion of the U.S. 25th Inf. Div. at **Ben Trei**, 70 km west-northwest of Saigon. Tay Ninh province. The patriots put 300 GIs out of action, destroyed 1 tank, 7 heavy mortars, 10 blackhouses and 12 tent barracks and brought down 1 helicopter.

On April 19, in the same provinces, intercepting the enemy on mission to relieve Vu Tang post, 80 km northwest of Saigon, the PLAF wiped out 120 GIs, blasted to pieces 12 tanks and armored cars and grounded 12 helicopters and planes.

Puppet rangers on April 26 were engaged at **Giong Lon**, 15 km west of Saigon, and one of their companies was decimated, losing 70 men.

In Saigon itself, on April 2, the guerrillas sank an enemy patrol boat berthed at a quay in the 7th district.

Follow-up reports on the major ambush on April 16 at **Song Lay** on Highway N° 1, 70 km east-northeast of Saigon (see our previous

TWO years ago, said the battalion commander, or more exactly in summer 1967, my unit passed by Duong Minh Chau area (about 70 km North-West of Saigon — Ed.). We reached the border of the forest by noon. The sun beat down furiously and the trees had been completely stripped bare by a U.S. toxic chemical spraying. There remained only shriveled trunks and leafless branches. Amidst the devastated tree, we, however, could see several birds shooting forth. More than that, we met someone whose situation irresistibly called to mind an analogy with the renaissance vegetation.

I was bringing up the rear of the battalion when the forward column suddenly came to a halt. I ran up to the front ranks. What a surprise for me to hear someone weep as I approached the head of the column. Seeing me, Comrade Bang said, pointing his

think we can take you along in the midst of an operation now?"

The lad cried even louder at these words. He pressed on his belly a bag that apparently contained all his belongings while on crying quite a long while before sobbing out:

"But I have no more village! I live in a strategic hamlet."

And he was about to burst into tears again. It took me a lot of trouble to get his story. And here what I gathered from his broken talk.

His name was Truong and he had only his mother left, a poor blind woman. The two lived in a strategic hamlet. Earlier there had been five of them: his father, mother, two elder sisters and himself. They earned their living gathering latex in a plantation. By the end of 1964, a

As the day passed, the sun shone brightly on the faces of the children who were gathered around the volunteer. The atmosphere was one of joy and hope.

A Teen-Age Volunteer

MEKONG

A T Cho Hong, 14 km southwest of Saigon, the PLAF on April 19 overran an enemy armored compound, destroying 20 military vehicles and wiping out the guard platoon.

In Ben Tre province, on April 14, 4 of the 6 vessels of a flotilla were sent to the bottom or set on fire about 60 km south-southwest of Saigon and 10 adverse casualties were recorded in this action. On April 18, a company of puppet Division 7 was wiped out at the Chanh, more than 80 km south of Saigon, losing about 100 men.

In Vinh Long province, about 100 km southwest of Saigon, between April 11 and 14, the PLAF mounted 50 attacks against 22 enemy positions in the 2 cities of Vinh Long and Sa Dec, 4 sub-sector H's and many military posts. They took a toll of 1,150 including a U.S. major and 5 puppet majors and captains, shot ablaze 10 M-113 armored personnel carriers, brought down 10 aircraft, and destroyed 8 military vehicles and a cannon.

In the Southernmost province of Ca Mau, between April 4 and April 20, the PLAF killed or wounded 500 enemy men including 110 GIs, captured 110 agents of the enemy, sank or burnt 11 vessels, destroyed an armored car and downed one plane.

I sat him beside me and went on:

"If you want to join us, why did it occur to you to wait for us here? Won't it be simpler for you to the village committee? Why do you

strategic hamlet was set up in their area. A U.S. shell landing on their home killed his father and his two sisters. His mother lost her sight as a result of a shrapnel wound. Since then mother and son had been in the direst situation.

His mother, he said, had promised to let him go as soon as he was old enough. But where to go she did not specify. At night, thinking that her son was asleep she would feel his body with every now and then to assess his exact size. But Truong was awake. He knew his mother was looking with impatience to see her son off into action.

Then, one day she urged him to go and join the revolutionary armed forces. Truong had many times wandered in this corner of the forest. Each time he returned empty handed, his mother would tell him to persevere. This time, he had spent the night in the open air in the forest waiting for us. His mother had told him:

"You must go into the army to avenge our family and our people. If you come back all the time, you can never meet them!"

So, he stayed two days and two nights running in the jungle. His provision of cassava roots and water having run out, he had gone without food for a whole day before we came.

After a brief consultation with other comrades in the command, I decided to take the youngster.

And we had not to regret this decision. First, we detached him to a scout group. Many comrades at first did not fully trust him but I personally had strong faith in him because the path he had taken was unassailable. It was the one that had led most of our men to the battlefield.

Never had I seen a scout with such a strong and long who stood as well all trials all through the two years he served in the group. He who had defied hunger and other hardships staying two days in the forest waiting for us, now could remain hidden in a pond for a whole week to watch the movement of the enemy. During the B-57s battle, he sat perched whole day in a tall old tree, braving

torrential rains to spot the direction of the movement of a U.S. unit. He came back, drenched to the bones, shivering like a duck in a thunderstorm, but provided with the most complete information.

He nurtured an implacable hatred for the Yankees. It seemed that the U.S. shell, in knocking out the eyes of his mother, had given Truong a clearer sight that enabled him to detect the slightest movement of the enemy.

Since the beginning of this year Truong no longer used only his eyes to fight the Yankees. He wished to use also his hands. So, up and we transferred him to a group of gummy baroques. Ever since then he alone has blown up a dozen tanks, and M-113 armored personnel carriers. Quite recently, during our assault in the 9th district of Saigon, a machine-gun nest of the enemy installed in a house on Dong Khanh boulevard blocked our advance. But Truong, by an extraordinary courageous deed in the most perilous circumstances, stood up and fired a B-40 shot with a rare accuracy that sent crumbling the floor on which the machine-gun was placed. Thanks to his timely action, we were able to resume our offensive.

That was how the hatred for the Yankees has turned a little boy into an elite fighter.

After ANH DUC (South Viet Nam)

News from LAOS

1,100th U.S. Aircraft downed in Laos

THE patriotic armed forces on April 15 knocked down a T-28 plane over Samphat area, north of Vapi town (Lower Laos), bringing to 1,100 the total of U.S. aircraft lost in Laos so far, KPL reported.

157 Rightist Soldiers Leave Their Ranks in Luang Prabang

BETWEEN Feb. 15 and March 31, a total of 120 bandits, including one platoon and six squad commanders stationed in the northern part of the Nam

Bac valley, were called into deserting the rightist ranks. KPL (Pathet Lao News Agency) reported.

Enemy defections in the area have become more frequent since the release of the patriots of the POWs captured in the Nam Bac battle (Jan. 1969) which has favorably impressed the rightist soldiers and their families in the province.

Over 300 Bandits Wiped Out in Phongsaly

THE regional armed forces in Phongsaly province, Upper Laos, in the first quarter of this year put out of action over 300 U.S.-fostered bandits smuggled into newly liberated areas with the aim of rebuilding their bases and attacking the patriotic forces.

The patriots seized more than 100 firearms of various

kinds including dozens of mortars, recoilless guns and machineguns, seven radio transmitters and large quantities of other military equipment.

Public Health in Liberated Zone

ALTHOUGH the U.S. imperialists and their hirelings have been stepping up their "special war" against Laos and increasing their aerial bombardments, the public health service in the liberated zone has kept developing, said a KPL report.

By now all the provinces in the liberated zone have their hospitals. A network of medical installations has been set up with infirmaries in almost all districts and dispensaries in almost all villages.

Propagation of hygienic practices and prophylactics has been stepped up in almost all villages along with the popularization of health-preserving methods.

The training of medical workers has been pushed up. Apart from locally-run schools to train hospital attendants, the liberated zone has opened 4 schools to train middle-level physicians.

Production of medicaments, particularly from local materials, has been expanded.

The contingent of medical workers from elementary to high levels — mostly sons and daughters of working people — has recorded outstanding achievements.

Surgery — a novelty to Lao-tians not long ago — has now become an integral part of treatment in many hospitals where skull and other operations have been successfully performed.

The medical service in the liberated zone has met the requirements in promptly treating wounds caused by U.S. bombs and shells, making ever greater contributions to the struggle against U.S. aggression, for national salvation.

ON THE LARGE SOUTHERN FRONT



A major ammunition depot of the U.S. marines southwest of Da Nang air base blew up during a PLAF attack on April 27, 1969. Flares could be seen from a 50 kilometer distance.

MILITARY OPERATIONS

QUANG TRI - THUA THIEN AREA

ON April 22 the PLAF put nearly 100 GIs out of action 18 km northwest of Tam Da Highway 9000 between Dong Ha and Khe Sanh GDA reported. On April 23 and 24, they engaged the enemy in heavy fighting near Ca Binh and northeast of Tam Lam, killing or wounding 150 GIs, capturing many others, and shooting down a helicopter. In this sector, guerrillas and regional troops of Tam Da and Gio Linh districts hit the enemy everywhere he was found and, between April 20 and April 25, put nearly 200 U.S. and puppet troops out of action, destroyed 17 vehicles including 8 tanks and armored cars, shot down or damaged 7 aircraft and sunk 2 vessels.

In the Khe Sanh sector, where the enemy had launched a large-scale counter-offensive, the PLAF blasted out a U.S. armored camp at Long Vay, 7 km west of Khe Sanh town. After one hour's fighting, nearly 100 GIs casualties were listed and 23 tanks and armored cars destroyed.

On April 28, before dawn, 3 more enemy camps around Tam Con, the famous former "Khe Sanh base", were flattened. Well over 200 U.S. puppets were put out of action and 33 vehicles wrecked during these raids.

All told, in the Quang Tri area, South of the DMZ, from April 17, the raiders had withdrawn from Tam Tanh and A Doi, principal theatres of operation about 13 km south of Khe Sanh town. In a month, they lost 1,200 men, 12 armored cars, 8 cannons and 2 ammo and fuel depots

destroyed and 4 helicopters shot down.

Further southeast, in the Hue sector, nearly 400 enemy troops including 200 GIs were put out of action in different PLAF actions between April 15 and April 26.

DA NANG AREA

THE most spectacular coup was tacit levelling by PLAF ground troops of a huge U.S. ammo depot on the southwestern edge of the Da Nang air base on the night of April 26. The whole area was rocked by explosions which continued for many hours and paralyzed the base's activity. Tens of thousands of tons of bombs and shells exploded, blasting hundreds of base buildings and causing many dead and wounded.

Ten days earlier, the PLAF had pounded several U.S. billeting areas in Da Nang city and some 60 adverse troops had been killed or wounded at a major fuel and chemicals depots turned into a gigantic mass of fire by the shells of the patriots.

On April 17, guerrillas of 4 villages of Dien Bau district, about 20 km south of Da Nang, knocked out 113 GIs and burnt an M115 armor-car.

Four enemy positions near Nong Son, 45 km south-southwest of Da Nang, were assailed and a company and several platoons of puppet troops wiped out, losing 150 men killed or wounded, many others taken prisoner and a large quantity of weapons to the patriots.

On Clouds pass (Hoi Van), northwest of Da Nang, military 13-vehicle convoy moving in the direction of Hue was completely destroyed along with an escort company of GIs.

Further south in Quang Ngai province, the enemy, violently intercepted west of another of the provincial capital, took some 100

casualties on April 17. In Binh Dinh province on the road from Qui Nhon to An Khe, in a new ambush on April 16, a U.S. convoy of 5 trucks loaded with military goods and escorted by 2 M41 tanks and 2 self-propelled cannons was completely destroyed, and all the GIs accompanying it were killed or wounded.

WESTERN HIGHLANDS

IN Kon Tum province, U.S. reconnaissance units were assaulted throughout April 24 at Hoi F16, about 40 km northwest of the provincial capital, and lost 72 men killed or wounded.

Between Kontum and Pleiku, on April 16, a U.S. convoy ran into an ambush 24 km north of the last city. Fourteen vehicles including 10 tanks and armored cars were destroyed, and 70 GIs put out of action. Three days later, the CP of a puppet ranger battalion 5 km north of Pleiku came under fire and 70 enemy soldiers were killed or wounded.

It was further reported that on April 6, the airfields

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SOUTH VIET NAM

WORKERS SWING INTO ACTION IN ENEMY-CONTROLLED AREAS

SCANTY wages, spiralling inflation and soaring prices are not the only hardships experienced by the working people in areas still under enemy control. Saigon rulers have taken advantage of every occasion to crack down on them, ban them from their trade, forbid strikes, and mount successive police operations against workers' quarters where hundreds of arrests have been made. Nguyen Van Chau, member, Truong Van Kham, adviser, and Nguyen Van Giot, chief secretary, of the "Federation of Free Trade Unions" in Saigon, have been apprehended during these raids. Nearly a month before May Day this year, the Saigon Administration prohibited various Saigon mass organizations, political parties and trade unions' May Day meetings and demonstrations.

For all its crimes, this puppet administration has failed to stamp out labour disturbances. These instead have been going on since the beginning of this year. More than 400 workers at Grail Hospital staged a 7-day strike (Jan. 7-14, 1969) for a wage increase and maternity allowances for women workers. Their action was supported by 118 trade unions in Saigon. In the same period, 3,000 Saigon industrial workers went on strike against the dismissal of a number of workers at Nao Kong quay. This was followed by a stoppage by over 3,000 workers employed by Air Viet Nam for year-end bonuses and a pay rise. This brought to a virtual standstill U.S. military airfields and ports, and finally authorities had to undertake to meet the workers' claims and end all repression and ill-treatment. It should be also recalled the persistent struggle put up by 700 workers belonging to the pedicab, Lambretta and bus drivers' Unions in Tam Ky (Quang Nam) and more than 1,000 Lambretta drivers in Saigon for the abolition of the Central Viet Nam Car Transport Company (controlled by the Saigon administration) and for freedom to work.

In addition, workers of hundreds of factories, big and small, have also militated for better pay, reduction of work hours and improvement of living conditions, including labour disputes at the Pan-America Airways service, the laundry run by the Pak Jung Hi mercenary troops, the Majestic Hotel, the power plant, the water supply works, Saigon and Cat Lai ports, the SIF-A match factory, the BGI brewery, etc....

Recently, on April 24, 5,000 Saigon dockers went on strike in protest against the arbitrary reduction of the amount of work by the American port authorities without prior notice and this move affected the workers' income.

Workers in South Vietnamese cities have been militating not only for economic and trade union interests. They have also taken an active part in the fight against US aggression for national salvation. They have joined in liquidating soundscapes and thugs in the streets and in workers' residential quarters and disbanding the enemy-controlled civil self-defence organizations. Most typical was the struggle against civil self-defence waged by Dau Tieng plantation workers and by students and other labouring people in My Tho and Can Tho provinces and in many workers' quarters in Saigon, Chu Lam and Gio Linh. By large-scale sit-ins and even unauthorized strikes, the political drive against the US and its puppets in various workers' quarters has involved school pupils, students, intellectuals, national capitalists, and members of the puppet administration and army. Workers in enemy-controlled areas are giving a warm response to the May Day appeal issued by the South Viet Nam Liberation Federation of Trade Unions by "re-solutely struggling against the political drive of aggression, the unconditional US troop withdrawal, the removal of the puppet administration and the formation of a peace cabinet to conduct serious negotiations with the NFL".

Intellectuals in Occupied Cities Lash U.S.-Puppet Policies

A teach-in was held on April 19 and 20 at the college of Can Tho, a city under U.S.-puppet control, GDA reported.

The more than 300 participants, including intellectuals of the city, from Saigon and other places, elected their senators and high-ranking officials of the puppet administration, denounced the Thieu-Ky fascist puppet regime's downright repression

of peace advocates.

GPA quoted Nguyen Van Hao, Doctor of Economy, as saying that the economy in areas under U.S.-puppet control was an "imposed economy of false prosperity", that "illiteracy has the hold on one-third of the population in the big cities, and on a half of the population in the (U.S.-puppet-controlled) areas in general". "Social evils

are proliferating fast", he added.

GPA said the teach-in "attributed the misdeeds of the people to the U.S. imperialists' aggressive war and the Thieu-Ky-Huong puppet administration's reaction and said that 'if an end is to be put to the sufferings and mourning, independence, democracy, peace and ultimate national reunification must be achieved'."